



VPI/94-04 CIP2 DIV5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : David Lukton  
Group : 1653  
Applicants : Guy W. Bemis et al.  
Application No. : 09/886,773 Confirmation No. 6928  
Filed : June 21, 2001  
For : INHIBITORS OF INTERLEUKIN-1 $\beta$   
CONVERTING ENZYME

New York, New York  
December 16, 2003

Hon. Commissioner  
for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

**RECEIVED**

DEC 29 2003

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

This responds to the June 16, 2003 non-final Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants have petitioned concurrently herewith to extend the period for responding to that Action for three (3) months, from September 16, 2003 up to and including December 16, 2003 and have paid the required fee under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136(a) and 1.17(a)(3).

Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 10 of this paper.